

(19)

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 174 102 A2

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(43) Date of publication:
23.01.2002 Bulletin 2002/04

(51) Int Cl.7: **A61F 13/495**(21) Application number: **01305735.1**(22) Date of filing: **02.07.2001**

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventors:
• **Mishima, Yoshitaka, Technical Center**
Mitoyo-gun, Kagawa-ken, 769-1602 (JP)
• **Tani, Koichiro, Technical Center**
Mitoyo-gun, Kagawa-ken, 769-1602 (JP)

(30) Priority: **21.07.2000 JP 2000221037**

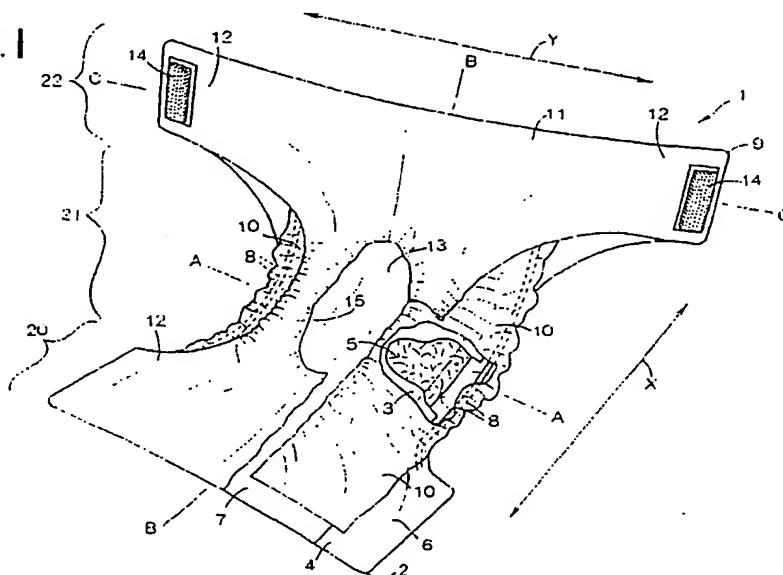
(74) Representative: **Parry, Christopher Stephen et al**
Saunders & Dolleymore, 9 Rickmansworth Road
Watford, Herts. WD18 0JU (GB)

(71) Applicant: **UNI-CHARM CORPORATION**
Kawanoe-shi Ehime-ken (JP)

(54) Disposable diaper

(57) A disposable diaper 1 including a panel structure 2 composed of a base sheet 4 and a core 5 attached thereto and a sheet member 9 extending above the panel structure 2. The panel structure 2 has a pair of first side flaps 6 extending in a longitudinal direction and a pair of end flaps 7 extending in a transverse direction. The sheet member 9 includes a pair of side walls 10 biased to rise above the panel structure 2 and a top wall 11 biased to be spaced upward from the panel structure 2. The side walls 10 have side edge portions bonded to

the vicinity of transversely opposite side edges of the core 5 and first end portions bonded to the end flaps 7. The top wall 11 has an opening defined between the side walls 10, second end portions bonded to the end flaps 7 and second side flaps 12 extending outside the top edges of the respective side walls 10 in parallel to the first side flaps 6. Transversely opposite side edge portion of these flaps 6, 12 overlapping each other in the front and rear waist regions 20, 22 are bonded to each other.

FIG.1**EP 1 174 102 A2**

Description

[0001] This invention relates to a disposable diaper adapted to absorb and to hold excretion discharged thereon.

[0002] Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 1999-113958A describes a disposable diaper basically comprising a panel structure which comprises, in turn, a liquid-pervious topsheet, a liquid-impervious backsheet and a liquid-absorbent core disposed between these two sheets, and a sheet member lying above the topsheet. The panel structure is longitudinally composed of a front waist region, a rear waist region and a crotch region extending between these waist regions wherein a pair of side flaps extend in a longitudinal direction immediately outside transversely opposite side edges of the core and a pair of end flaps extend in a transverse direction immediately outside longitudinally opposite ends of the core. The sheet member comprises a pair of side walls extending in the longitudinal direction in the vicinity of the transversely opposite side edges of the core and a top wall extending between top edges of the respective side walls in parallel to the top- and back-sheets.

[0003] The respective side walls have the side edge portions thereof bonded to the vicinity of the side edges of the core in the panel structure and the longitudinal opposite ends thereof bonded to the end flaps of the panel structure. The top wall has an opening at a location corresponding to a middle zone of the crotch region and longitudinally opposite end portions bonded to the end flaps. This diaper of prior art enables the respective side walls to rise above the panel structure and enables the top wall to be spaced upward from the panel structure so that a cavity adapted to receive excretion discharged on the diaper may be defined between the panel structure and the sheet member as the top wall is spaced upward from the panel structure.

[0004] The top wall of the sheet member is of a rectangular shape transversely dimensioned to be smaller than a transverse dimension of the panel structure and not present above the side flaps of the panel structure. The side walls of the sheet member are bonded to the panel structure except its end flaps only along the side edge portions of the side walls. As a result, the sheet member is not restricted by the panel structure and freely movable.

[0005] In the case of the diaper disclosed by above-identified Publication, the top wall comes in contact with wearer's belly and hip merely over a small area in the front and rear waist regions of the diaper as the diaper is put on the wearer's body and the sheet member is movable independently of the panel structure. Consequently, the sheet member often shifts particularly in the transverse direction in the front and rear waist regions. Such transverse shift of the sheet member may lead to a problem that the opening formed in the top wall may miss the extent of the wearer's urinary organs and/or

anus and be unable to receive excretion into the cavity.

[0006] It is an object of this invention to provide a disposable diaper improved so that the top wall of the sheet member may come in close contact with a wearer's belly and hip over a relatively large area and the sheet member may be sufficiently prevented from shifting sideways in the front and rear waist regions to receive excretion reliably into the cavity.

[0007] According to this invention, there is provided a disposable diaper comprising: a panel structure including a liquid-impervious base sheet and a liquid-absorbent core attached thereto and a sheet member extending above the panel structure; the panel structure having a front waist region, a rear waist region and a crotch region extending between these waist regions and including a pair of first side flaps extending in the longitudinal direction immediately outside transversely opposite side edges of the core and a pair of end flaps extending in a transverse direction immediately outside longitudinally opposite ends of the core; the sheet member including a pair of side walls extending in the longitudinal direction in the vicinity of the transversely opposite side edges of the core so that the side walls are normally biased to rise above the panel structure and a top wall extending between top edges of the side walls in parallel to the base sheet so that the top wall is normally biased to be spaced apart from upward from the panel structure; the side walls respectively comprising side edge portions bonded to the core in the vicinity of the transversely opposite side edges thereof and first end portions bonded to the end flaps; the top wall having at least one opening defined between the side walls and second end portions bonded to the end flaps so that a cavity adapted to receive excretion is defined between the panel structure and the sheet member.

[0008] The improvement according to this invention is in that the top wall has a pair of second side flaps extending immediately outside the top edges of the side walls in parallel to the first side flaps so that the first side flap and the second side flap are bonded together at least along the transversely opposite side edge portions of the first and second side flaps overlapping each other in the front and rear waist regions.

[0009] According to one preferred embodiment of this invention, at least the top wall of the sheet member is elastically stretchable at least in the longitudinal direction of the longitudinal and transverse directions and bonded under tension in the longitudinal direction to the panel structure so that the side walls may be normally biased to rise above the base sheet and the top wall may be normally biased to be spaced apart from the base sheet.

[0010] According to another preferred embodiment of this invention, the first and second side flaps have transversely opposite side edges thereof curving inward in the transverse direction in the crotch region so as to describe circular arcs so that the top wall has a transverse dimension in the crotch region smaller than the corre-

sponding dimension in the panel structure.

Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a disposable diaper according to this invention as partially broken away;

Fig. 2 is an exploded perspective view showing the diaper as a basic structure of the diaper and a liquid-resistant sheet member being separated from each other;

Fig. 3 is a sectional view taken along a line A - A in Fig. 1;

Fig. 4 is a sectional view taken along a line B - B in Fig. 1;

Fig. 5 is a sectional view taken along a line C - C in Fig. 1; and

Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing the diaper as put on a wearer's body and as partially broken away.

[0011] Details of a disposable diaper according to this invention will be more fully understood from the description given hereunder with reference to the accompanying drawings.

[0012] Fig. 1 is a perspective view showing a disposable diaper 1 according to this invention as partially broken away and Fig. 2 is an exploded perspective view showing the diaper 1 as a panel structure 2 and a sheet member 9 being separated from each other. It should be understood that, in the embodiment illustrated and described herein, a longitudinal direction is designated by X and a transverse direction is designated by Y as indicated by arrows X and Y, respectively, in Figs. 1 and 2.

[0013] The diaper 1 basically comprises a panel structure 2 and a sheet member 9 extending above the panel structure 2. The panel structure 2 basically comprises, in turn, a liquid-pervious topsheet 3, a liquid-impervious backsheet 4 and a liquid-absorbent core 5 disposed between these two sheets 3, 4 and entirely covered with and bonded to water-absorbent tissue paper (not shown). Both the top- and backsheets 3, 4 elastically stretchable longitudinally as well as transversely. The core 5 is intermittently bonded to the inner surface of the top- and/or backsheets with tissue paper therebetween.

[0014] The topsheet 3 is not essential component member for the panel structure 2 but it is also possible to form the panel structure 2 from the liquid-impervious backsheet 4 and the liquid-absorbent core 5 attached to the inner surface of the backsheet 4 in the absence of the topsheet 3. Thus, the backsheet 4 is one of the essential means to solve the problem of the prior art.

[0015] The panel structure 2 is longitudinally composed of a front waist region 20, a rear waist region 22 and a crotch region 21 extending between these front and rear waist regions 20, 22. The panel structure 2 further comprises a pair of side flaps 6 longitudinally extending in parallel to each other along transversely opposite side edges 5a of the core 5 and a pair of end flaps 7 transversely extending in parallel to each other im-

mediately outside longitudinally opposite ends 5b of the core 5. In the panel structure 2, the first side flaps 6 curve transversely inward in the crotch region 21 so as to describe circular arcs and, in consequence, the panel structure 2 is hourglass-shaped as viewed in its plan view. The panel structure 2 has its transverse dimension L1 in the rear waist region 22 larger than its transverse dimension L2 in the front waist region 20.

[0016] The first side flaps 6 are formed by the portions of the top- and backsheets 3, 4 extending transversely outward beyond the transversely opposite side edges 5a of the core 5. A longitudinally extending elastic member 8 is bonded under tension to each of the first side flaps 6. The end flaps 7 are formed by the portions of the top- and backsheets 3, 4 extending longitudinally outward beyond longitudinally opposite ends 5b of the core 5. In the first side flaps 6 and the end flaps 7, said portions of the top- and backsheets 3, 4 placed upon each other are intermittently bonded without tension to each other.

[0017] The sheet member 9 is formed by a pair of side walls 10 longitudinally extending in the vicinity of the transversely opposite side edges 5a of the core 5 and a top wall 11 extending above the respective side walls 10 in parallel to the top- and backsheets 3, 4. The side walls 10 and the top wall 11 are formed with separate sheets, respectively, and hereinafter the side walls 10 will be referred to as side wall sheets 10 and the top wall 11 will be referred to as the top wall sheet 11.

[0018] Each of the side wall sheets 10 comprises a first side edge portion 10a overlapping the associated first side flap 6, an end portion 10b overlapping the associated the end flap 7 and a top edge portion 10c extending longitudinally above the side edge portion 10a. The side wall sheet 10 is elastically stretchable longitudinally as well as transversely.

[0019] The top wall sheet 11 comprises second side flaps 12 lying outside the top edge portions 10c of the respective side wall sheets 10 and extending in parallel to the respective first side flaps 6, a longitudinally larger opening 13 defined between the top edge portions 10c of the respective side wall sheets 10 and second end portions 11b overlapping the respective end flaps 7. The top wall sheet 11 is elastically stretchable longitudinally as well as transversely. In the top wall sheet 11, the second side flaps 12 curve transversely inward to describe circular arcs and thereby define an hourglass-like configuration, as viewed in the plan view, in the crotch region 21.

[0020] The top wall sheet 11 has its transverse dimension L4 in the rear waist region 22 is larger than its transverse dimension L5 in the front waist region 20. Its transverse dimension L6 in the crotch region 21 is smaller than a transverse dimension L3 of the panel structure 2 in the crotch region 21.

[0021] The top wall sheet 11 is bonded to the top edge portions 10c of the respective side wall sheets 10. The side wall sheets 10 and the top wall sheet 11 are not

under any tension when these sheets 10, 11 are bonded together. A pair of rectangular hook members 14 are attached to transversely opposite second flaps 12, respectively, in the rear waist region 22.

[0022] Figs. 3, 4 and 5 are sectional views taken along lines A - A, B - B and C - C in Fig. 1, respectively.

[0023] In the first side flaps 6, the topsheet 3 extends transversely outward slightly beyond the transversely opposite side edges 5a of the core 5 and the backsheet 4 extends transversely outward beyond the side edges of the topsheet 3.

[0024] The side wall sheets 10 have the side edge portions 10a thereof bonded to the top- and backsheet 3, 4 of the panel structure 2 in the first side flaps 6 and the end portions 10b thereof bonded to the topsheet 3 of the panel structure 2 in the end flaps 7. The top wall sheet 11 has its end portions 11b bonded to the topsheet 3 of the panel structure 2 in the end flaps 7. The first side flaps 6 and the second side flaps 12 are bonded together along the transversely opposite side edge portions 6a, 12a of these flaps 6, 12 overlapping one another in the front and rear waist regions 20, 22 and the longitudinally ends 6b, 12b of these flaps 6, 12 overlapping one another in these flaps 6, 12.

[0025] When the side wall sheets 10 and the top wall sheet 11 are bonded to the panel structure 2, the top- and backsheet 3, 4 are free from any tension while the side wall sheets 10 and the top wall sheet 11 are under tension in their longitudinal direction.

[0026] In the diaper 1, the side wall sheets 10 and the top wall sheet 11 contract in the longitudinal direction so that the panel structure 2 longitudinally curves with the topsheet 3 inside. The side wall sheets 10 thus rise above the panel structure 2 and the top wall sheets 11 are spaced upward from the panel structure 2. In this manner, the topsheet 3, the side wall sheets 10 and the top wall sheet 11 surround a cavity 15.

[0027] Fig. 6 is a perspective view showing the diaper 1 as put on a wearer's body and as partially broken away, in which the wearer is indicated by chain lines. To put the diaper 1 on the wearer's body, the second side flaps 12 in the rear waist region 22 are overlapped upon the first side flaps 6 in the front waist region 20, and then the hook members 14 are anchored on associated loop members 16 attached to the front waist region 20 of the panel structure 2 to connect the front and rear waist regions 20, 22 to each other. Referring to Fig. 6, the diaper 1 is formed with a waist-hole 17 and a pair of leg-holes 18. Excretion is received by the cavity 15 through the opening 13.

[0028] The side wall sheets 10 and the top wall sheet 11 are longitudinally stretched as the diaper 1 is put on the wearer's body. In the crotch region 21, the top wall sheet 11 narrower than the panel structure 2 inclusive of the second side flaps 12 are tightly placed against the wearer's inguinal region and the first side flaps 6 of the panel structure 2 are tightly placed against inner sides of the wearer's thighs. In the front and rear waist regions

20, 22, the first side flaps 6 of the panel structure 2 cover the wearer's belly and hip and the top wall sheet 11 inclusive of the second side flaps 12 cover the wearer's belly and hip over a large extent.

[0029] In the front and rear waist regions 20, 22, the end portions 11b of the respective side wall sheets 10 and the end portions 11b of the top wall sheet 11 are bonded to the panel structure 2, and the transversely opposite side edge portions 6a, 12a as well as the longitudinally end portions 6b, 12b of the first side flaps 6 and the second side flaps 12, respectively, are also bonded to the panel structure 2. In the front and rear waist regions 20, 22, therefore, movement of the sheet member 9 particularly in the transverse direction is restricted by the panel structure 2 and it is not apprehended that the sheet member 9 might move independently of the panel structure 2.

[0030] In the crotch region 21, only the side edge portions 10a of the respective side wall sheets 10 are bonded to the panel structure 2 and correspondingly the movement of the sheet member 9 is not so restricted by the panel structure 2 as in the front and rear waist regions 20, 22. In the crotch region 21 to which the wearer's movement is easily transmitted, the sheet member 9 does not follow the movement of the panel structure 2 even if the panel structure 2 follows the wearer's movement. Thus the top wall sheet 11 inclusive of the second side flaps 12 is maintained in close contact with the wearer's body.

[0031] In the diaper 1, the panel structure 2 may comprise the topsheet 3 and the backsheet 4 both being non-stretchable so far as at least the top wall sheet 11 constituting the sheet member 9 is elastically stretchable. In this case, the top wall sheet 11 may be bonded under longitudinal tension to the panel structure 2 in order to ensure that the side wall sheets 10 are biased to rise above the topsheet 3 and the top wall sheet 11 is biased to be spaced apart from the topsheet 3. It is also possible to form between the top edge portions 10c of the respective side wall sheets 10 with a pair of openings in the top wall sheet 11.

[0032] While the diaper 1 has been illustrated and described in which the first side flaps 6 and the second side flaps 12 are bonded together along the transversely opposite side edge portions 6a, 12a and the longitudinally opposite end portions 6b, 12b of these flaps 6, 12, it is also possible to bond these flaps 6, 12 along the transversely opposite side edge portions 6a, 12a thereof.

[0033] The topsheet 3 may be formed with a liquid-pervious sheet such as a nonwoven fabric or porous plastic film, preferably with a liquid-pervious hydrophilic sheet. The backsheet 4 and the sheet member 9 may be formed with a hydrophobic nonwoven fabric, liquid-impervious plastic film or a laminated sheet of a hydrophobic nonwoven fabric and a plastic film, preferably by a breathable but liquid-impervious sheet. It is also possible to form the backsheet 4 using composite a nonwo-

ven fabric (SMS nonwoven fabric) consisting of a melt blown nonwoven fabric having a high water-resistance and two layers of spun bond nonwoven fabric having high strength and flexibility sandwiching the melt blown nonwoven fabric.

[0034] The nonwoven fabric may be selected from a group including spun lace-, needle punch-, melt blown-, thermal bond-, spun bond-, chemical bond- and air through-nonwoven fabric. Component fiber of the nonwoven fabric may be selected from a group including polyolefine-, polyester- and polyamide-based fibers and polyethylene/polypropylene or polyethylene/polyester core-sheath type conjugated fiber and side-by-side-type conjugated fiber.

[0035] The core 5 is a mixture of fluff pulp, high absorption polymer particles and thermoplastic synthetic resin fiber compressed to a desired thickness. The high absorption polymer may be selected from a group including starch-, cellulose-based polymer and synthetic polymer. Starch- and cellulose-based polymer may be graft polymer or carboxymethylated polymer. Synthetic polymer may be acryl-, POVAL-, acrylamide- or polyox-yethylene-based polymers.

[0036] Bonding of the top- and backsheets 3, 4, the sheet member 9 and the core 5 as well as attaching of the elastic member 8 may be carried out using suitable adhesive such as hot melt adhesive or heat-sealing technique.

[0037] The disposable diaper according to this invention is characterized in that a possible movement of the sheet member in the front and rear waist regions is well restricted by the panel structure. So far as the front and rear waist regions of the panel structure is properly put on the wearer's body, there is no anxiety that the sheet member might transversely shift independently of the panel structure and, in consequence, the opening also might shift.

[0038] In the crotch region, the movement of the sheet member is not so restricted by the panel structure as in the front and rear waist regions. Even if the panel structure moves in the crotch region to which the wearer's movement is easily transmitted, the sheet member does not follow the movement of the panel structure and the top wall sheet inclusive of the second side flaps is maintained in close contact with the wearer's body.

Claims

1. A disposable diaper comprising:

a panel structure including a liquid-impervious base sheet and a liquid-absorbent core attached thereto and a sheet member extending above said panel structure;

said panel structure having a front waist region, a rear waist region and a crotch region extending between these waist regions and including

a pair of first side flaps extending in said longitudinal direction immediately outside transversely opposite side edges of said core and a pair of end flaps extending in a transverse direction immediately outside longitudinally opposite ends of said core;

said sheet member including a pair of side walls extending in said longitudinal direction in the vicinity of the transversely opposite side edges of said core so that said side walls are normally biased to rise above said panel structure and a top wall extending between top edges of said side walls in parallel to said base sheet so that said top wall is normally biased to be spaced apart from upward from said panel structure; said side walls respectively comprising side edge portions bonded to said core in the vicinity of the transversely opposite side edges thereof and first end portions bonded to said end flaps; said top wall having at least one opening defined between said side walls and second end portions bonded to said end flaps so that a cavity adapted to receive excretion is defined between said panel structure and said sheet member;

wherein said top wall has a pair of second side flaps extending immediately outside said top edges of said side walls in parallel to said first side flaps so that said first and second side flaps are bonded together at least along the transversely opposite side edge portions of said first and second side flaps overlapping each other in said front and rear waist regions.

2. The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein at least said top wall of said sheet member is elastically stretchable at least in said longitudinal direction of said longitudinal and transverse directions and bonded under tension in said longitudinal direction to said panel structure so that said side walls may be normally biased to rise above said base sheet and said top wall may be normally biased to be spaced apart from said base sheet.
3. The disposable diaper according to Claim 1, wherein said first flap and said second side flap have transversely opposite side edges thereof curving inward in said transverse direction in said crotch region so as to describe circular arcs so that said top wall has a transverse dimension in said crotch region smaller than the corresponding dimension in said panel structure.

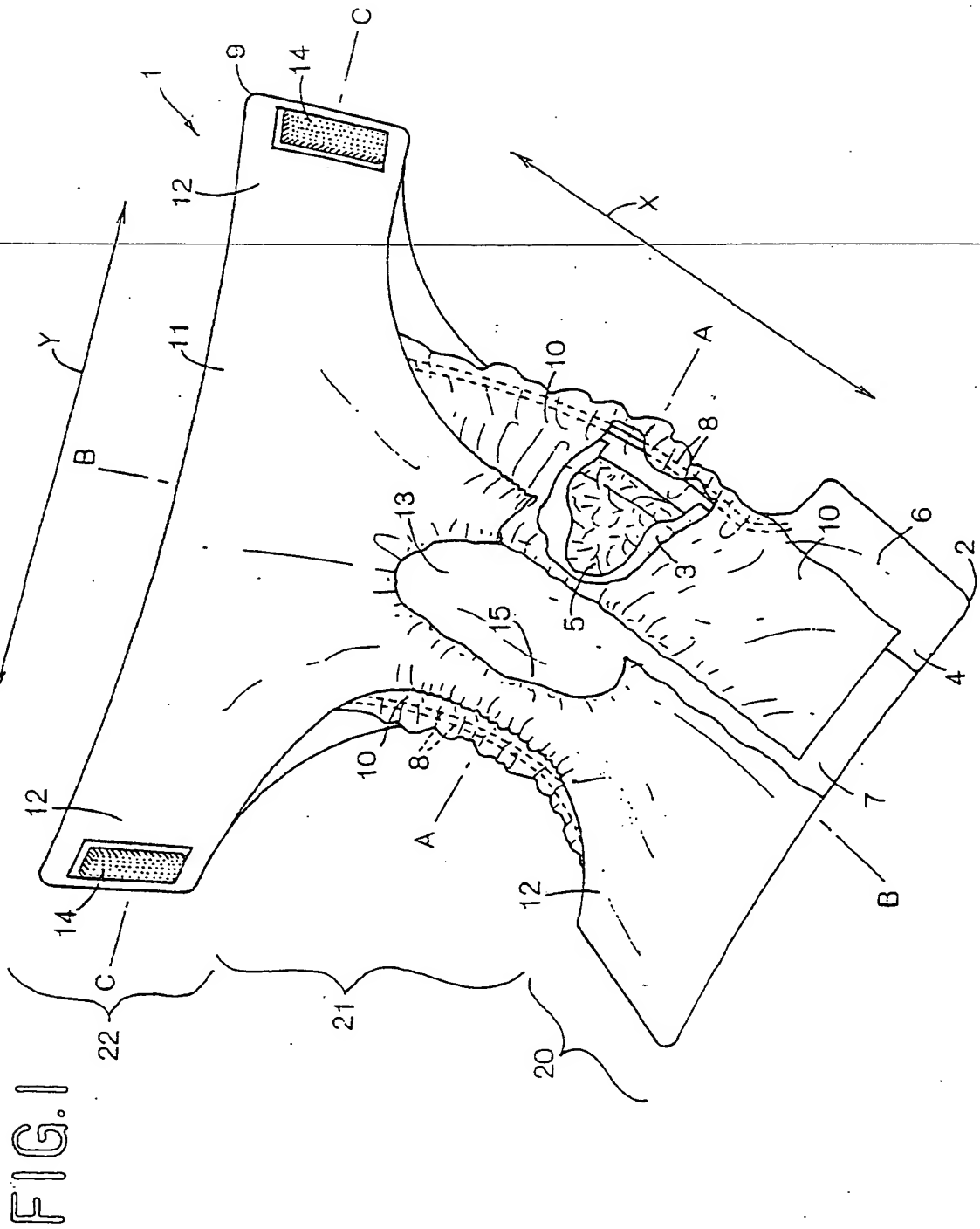


FIG. 3

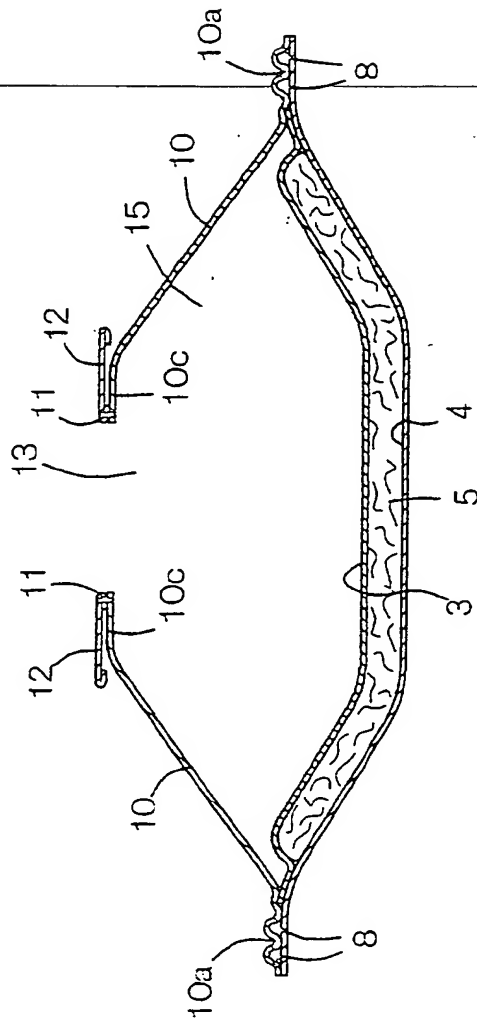


FIG. 4

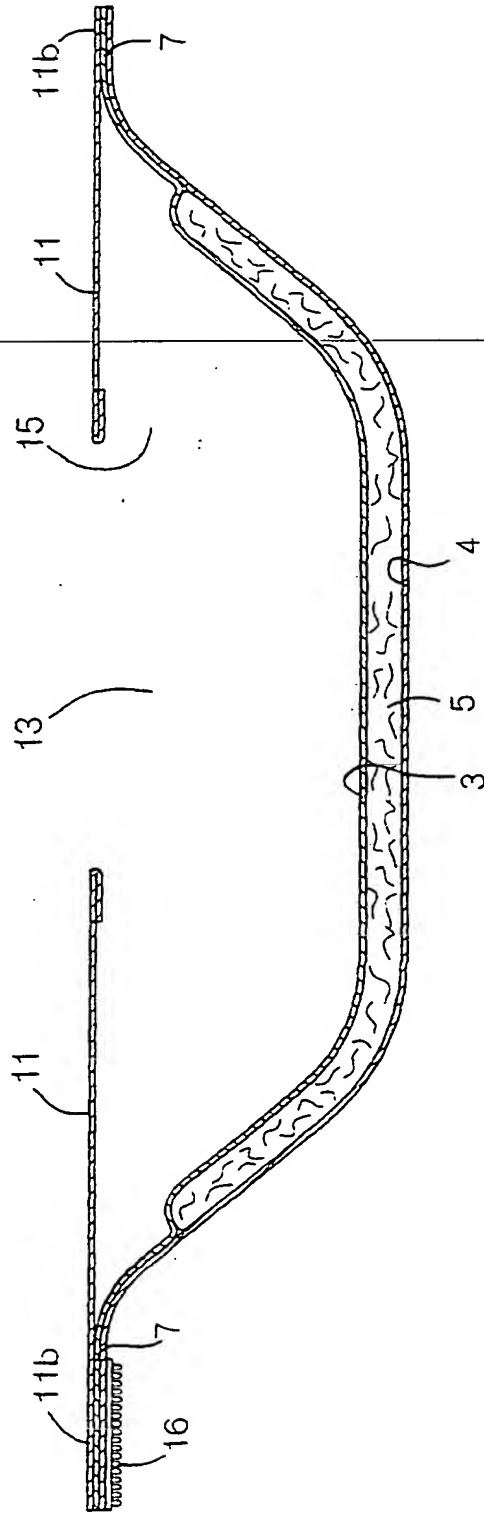


FIG. 5

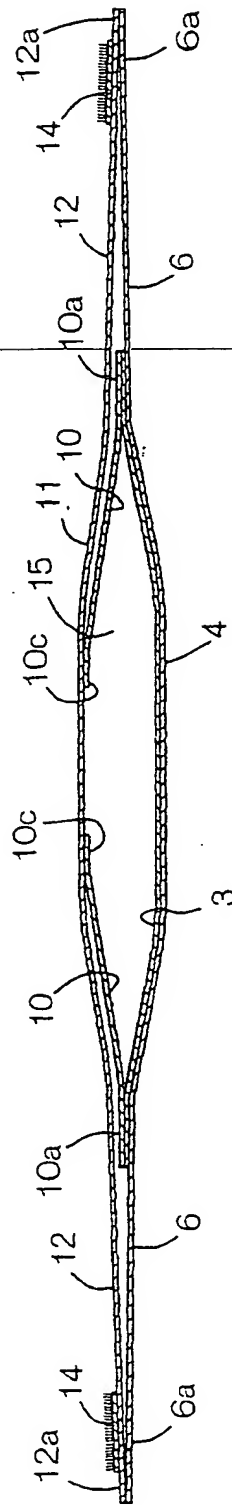
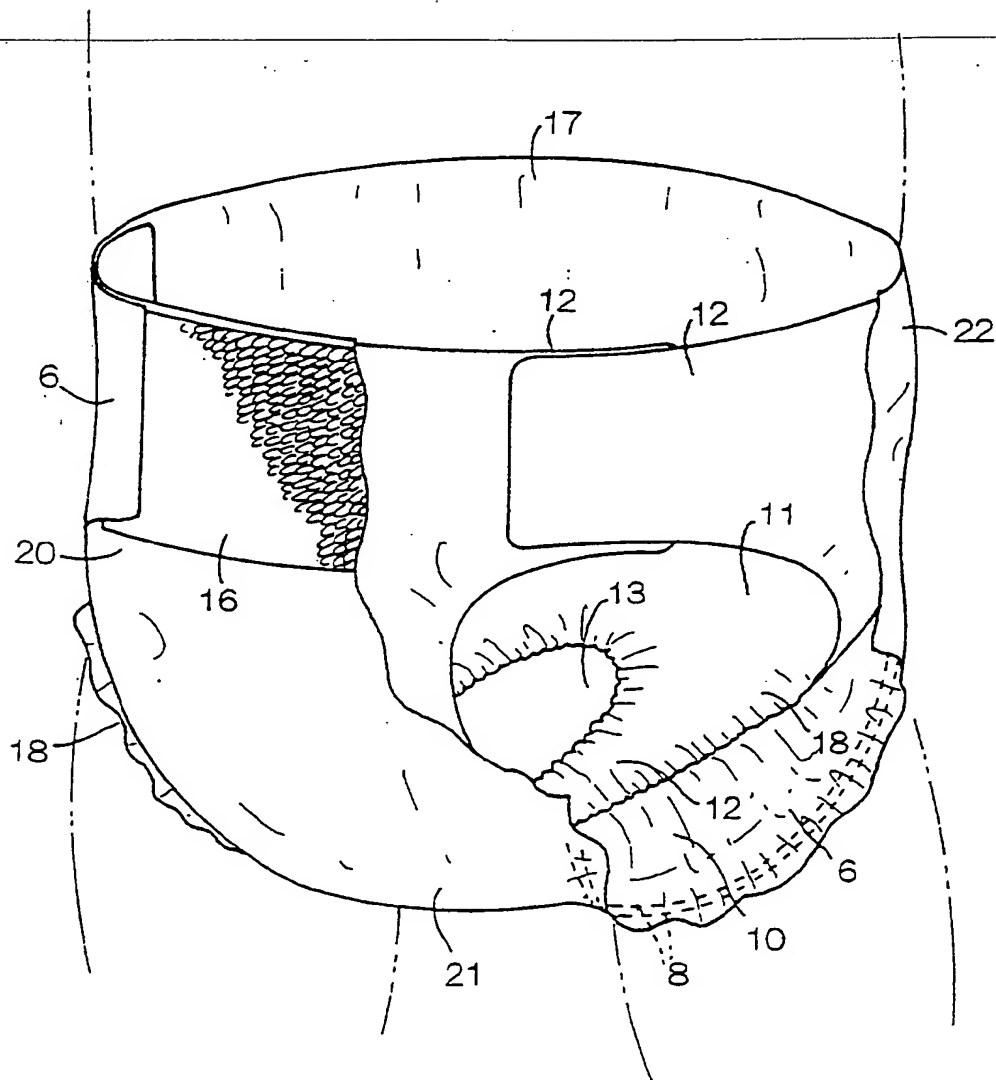
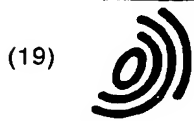


FIG.6



100



(19)

Europäisches Patentamt
European Patent Office
Office européen des brevets



(11)

EP 1 174 102 A3

(12)

EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION

(88) Date of publication A3:
20.03.2002 Bulletin 2002/12

(51) Int Cl.7: A61F 13/495

(43) Date of publication A2:
23.01.2002 Bulletin 2002/04

(21) Application number: 01305735.1

(22) Date of filing: 02.07.2001

(84) Designated Contracting States:
AT BE CH CY DE DK ES FI FR GB GR IE IT LI LU
MC NL PT SE TR
Designated Extension States:
AL LT LV MK RO SI

(72) Inventors:
• Mishima, Yoshitaka, Technical Center
Mitoyo-gun, Kagawa-ken, 769-1602 (JP)
• Tani, Koichiro, Technical Center
Mitoyo-gun, Kagawa-ken, 769-1602 (JP)

(30) Priority: 21.07.2000 JP 2000221037

(74) Representative: Parry, Christopher Stephen et al
Saunders & Dolleymore,
9 Rickmansworth Road
Watford, Herts. WD18 0JU (GB)

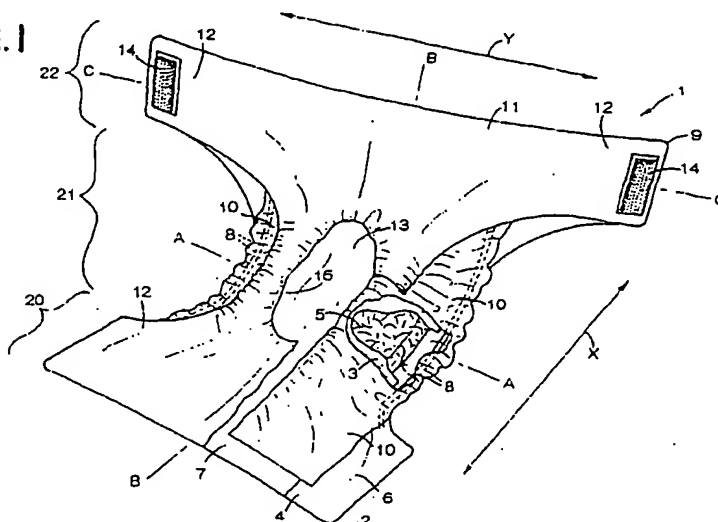
(71) Applicant: UNI-CHARM CORPORATION
Kawanoe-shi Ehime-ken (JP)

(54) Disposable diaper

(57) A disposable diaper 1 including a panel structure 2 composed of a base sheet 4 and a core 5 attached thereto and a sheet member 9 extending above the panel structure 2. The panel structure 2 has a pair of first side flaps 6 extending in a longitudinal direction and a pair of end flaps 7 extending in a transverse direction. The sheet member 9 includes a pair of side walls 10 biased to rise above the panel structure 2 and a top wall 11 biased to be spaced upward from the panel structure 2. The side walls 10 have side edge portions bonded to

the vicinity of transversely opposite side edges of the core 5 and first end portions bonded to the end flaps 7. The top wall 11 has an opening defined between the side walls 10, second end portions bonded to the end flaps 7 and second side flaps 12 extending outside the top edges of the respective side walls 10 in parallel to the first side flaps 6. Transversely opposite side edge portion of these flaps 6, 12 overlapping each other in the front and rear waist regions 20, 22 are bonded to each other.

FIG.1



EP 1 174 102 A3



European Patent
Office

EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 01 30 5735

DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT			
Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.7)
A	WO 97 14385 A (MARLENE SANDBERG AB ;AHLSTRAND OVE (SE); SANDBERG MARLENE (SE)) 24 April 1997 (1997-04-24) * abstract; figures *	1,2	A61F13/495
X	WO 98 08476 A (KIMBERLY CLARK CO) 5 March 1998 (1998-03-05) * abstract * * page 16, line 20-30 * * page 19, line 18-29; figures *	1,2	
X	US 6 017 336 A (SAUER BARBARA OAKLEY) 25 January 2000 (2000-01-25) * column 9, line 21 - column 10, line 15 * * column 15, line 66 - column 17, line 9; figures *	1,2	
D,A	EP 0 908 162 A (UNI CHARM CORP) 14 April 1999 (1999-04-14) *, figures *	1-3	
A	WO 95 25493 A (GUSTAFSSON ANDERS ;MOELNLYCKE AB (SE); WIDLUND URBAN (SE); SVERNLO) 28 September 1995 (1995-09-28) * the whole document *	1,2	TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.7) A61F
A	US 5.649.918 A (SCHLEINZ ALAN FRANCIS) 22 July 1997 (1997-07-22) * column 8, line 32-42 * * column 13, line 9-59; figures *	1	
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 23 January 2002	Examiner Seabra, L
CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document		T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document	

EP 01 30 5735 A3 (1997-04-24)

ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.

EP 01 30 5735

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report. The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

23-01-2002

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date		Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9714385	A	24-04-1997	AT	210948 T	15-01-2002
			AU	7354896 A	07-05-1997
			CA	2235279 A1	24-04-1997
			EP	0863732 A1	16-09-1998
			WO	9714385 A1	24-04-1997
			US	6183458 B1	06-02-2001
WO 9808476	A	05-03-1998	US	6132409 A	17-10-2000
			AU	4241197 A	19-03-1998
			WO	9808476 A1	05-03-1998
			AU	5239298 A	11-12-1998
			WO	9852506 A1	26-11-1998
US 6017336	A	25-01-2000	AU	5594498 A	03-07-1998
			BR	9713694 A	24-10-2000
			EP	0954270 A1	10-11-1999
			JP	2001505803 T	08-05-2001
			WO	9825563 A1	18-06-1998
EP 0908162	A	14-04-1999	JP	11113958 A	27-04-1999
			AU	8833398 A	29-04-1999
			BR	9804175 A	07-12-1999
			CA	2249782 A1	08-04-1999
			CN	1214235 A	21-04-1999
			EP	0908162 A2	14-04-1999
			TW	410599 Y	01-11-2000
			US	6248098 B1	19-06-2001
WO 9525493	A	28-09-1995	SE	502549 C2	13-11-1995
			AT	162391 T	15-02-1998
			AU	686357 B2	05-02-1998
			AU	2114495 A	09-10-1995
			CA	2185149 A1	28-09-1995
			CN	1143904 A	26-02-1997
			CZ	9602712 A3	12-02-1997
			DE	69501500 D1	26-02-1998
			DE	69501500 T2	20-05-1998
			DK	748199 T3	06-04-1998
			EP	0748199 A1	18-12-1996
			ES	2114315 T3	16-05-1998
			FI	963665 A	17-09-1996
			GB	2287888 A ,B	04-10-1995
			GR	3026034 T3	30-04-1998
			HU	77217 A2	02-03-1998
			IL	112671 A	04-01-1998
			JP	9510384 T	21-10-1997

EPO FORM 5002

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82

**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
ON EUROPEAN PATENT APPLICATION NO.**

EP 01 30 5735

This annex lists the patent family members relating to the patent documents cited in the above-mentioned European search report.
The members are as contained in the European Patent Office EDP file on
The European Patent Office is in no way liable for these particulars which are merely given for the purpose of information.

23-01-2002

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 9525493	A		NO 963807 A	30-10-1996
			NZ 283173 A	28-07-1998
			PL 316173 A1	23-12-1996
			SE 9400916 A	19-09-1995
			WO 9525493 A1	28-09-1995
			SK 117796 A3	06-08-1997
			US 6152907 A	28-11-2000
			US 6152908 A	28-11-2000
			ZA 9501586 A	08-12-1995
US 5649918	A	22-07-1997	AU 703450 B2	25-03-1999
			AU 4968596 A	27-08-1996
			CA 2210689 A1	15-08-1996
			EP 0808146 A1	26-11-1997
			FR 2730407 A1	14-08-1996
			GB 2297683 A , B	14-08-1996
			JP 10513380 T	22-12-1998
			WO 9624320 A1	15-08-1996
			ZA 9600783 A	05-09-1996

EPC FORM P-305

For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82